Amendments

In the Specification:

On the first page, after the title and before "Technical Field", please insert the following paragraph:

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/906,288 filed July 16, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please renumber the remaining paragraphs.

Please replace the following noted original paragraphs with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0003] Given this, systems have been developed for measuring relevant network parameters to evaluate network performance and help troubleshoot network issues which might degrade network performance. Generally, such systems utilize computer servers deployed on a network of interest to measure network performance parameters. Such computer servers are generally referred to as data collection agents (DCAs). A DCA generally connects to a device in the network about which a measurement is desired and takes one or more measurements of one or more predetermined metrics. The DCA then typically stores the results of the measurement either locally or in a remote database. The stored measurements can ~~the~~ **then** be called up and reviewed by a user to accesses the agent.

[0035] Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating ~~a preferred~~ **an** embodiment of a method **of the present invention** for providing composite variance analysis for network operations in

accordance with the present invention.

[0037] Figure 3 is a reproduction of ~~a preferred~~ <u>an</u> embodiment of a screen display rendered by a page rendering module of a system in accordance with the present invention.

[0054] As discussed above with respect to step 132, in one embodiment of method 100 it is preferable to compare hourly averages of measured network performance metrics with collective averages of such metrics over a longer period of time, such as 48 hours, which includes the hour from which the hourly average was calculated. However, past network performance can vary depending on time of day, day or week or even time of year. Specifically, for example, due to different amounts of network traffic in the middle of a week day afternoon as compared to early morning weekend times, a network service will likely display superior performance during the early morning weekend times. For example, due to varying network traffic, an average end-to-end time would likely be longer in the middle of a Friday afternoon ~~that~~ <u>than</u> early Saturday morning.